

THRO' GOLDEN GATE

Big Battleship Fleet Completes 13,000 Mile Cruise.

HILLS BLACK WITH HUMANITY

Practically Every First Class Warship in American Navy Anchored in Spacious Harbor.

San Francisco, May 7.—Through the towering portals of the Golden Gate—heavy laden with the romance of centuries—into the harbor of the city of a hundred hills; into a new San Francisco risen from the ruins of two years ago, the Atlantic battleship fleet steamed yesterday in review of a multitude unnumbered. It was the same imposing pageant of immaculate white ships that sailed from Hampton Roads nearly five months ago in the wake of the President's flag, but with the splendid accomplishments of a record-breaking cruise of more than 13,000 miles and three weeks of wonderful target work behind it.

Yesterday the white-anchored, four-starred blue flag of the Secretary of the Navy, flying from the main of the trim little gunboat Yorktown, fluttered the welcome of the Nation, while the Governor of California, the Mayor of San Francisco and the people of 100 or more towns and cities voiced the greetings of the enthusiastic West.

The exciting thrill of possible adventure lurking on the dimly distant horizon which marked the departure of the fleet from its Eastern base was gone, but there was still the satisfying sense of preparedness which travels with this self-reliant force of fighting vessels and the manifest pride of nearly 1,000,000 residents of the great western country who gazed for the first time upon a column of first-class battleships.

Once inside the entrance to the bay, the heavy vessels of the Eastern Coast were joined by the armored cruisers of the entire Pacific fleet, and the Navy of the Nation—all save a few newly-commissioned or reversed ships on the Atlantic and some patrol boats scattered in the Orient—joined in a parade, which for impressive beauty and strength of fighting timber has never been equaled. Forty-four vessels, ranging from the 16,000-ton Connecticut and the five sisters of her class, down to the tiny torpedo boats no larger than a racing launch, passed through the harbor to the anchorage south of the Market-street ferry terminals, where, outlined in the fire of their electric illuminations, they lie in four long lines awaiting the review of Secretary Metcalf on Friday morning.

The parade and maneuvers of anchoring occupied fully four hours of time and gave to the people who made black the hills of the city, the islands of the harbor, housetops and mountain heights twenty miles away, the most wondrous naval spectacle they have ever known. For, after all, whatever may be the elaborate festivals planned ashore in welcome of the fleet, the ships themselves, steaming along in varying formations, really present the picture that is most beautiful to see.

FREIGHT RATE WAR.

Harriman Declares It Will Be Higher Rates or Lower Wages.

Chicago, May 7.—The rate war which is raging between the railroads and the shippers promises to be a bitter one.

In Chicago the fight against the advance in freight rates will be fought principally by the Chicago Association of Commerce, which represents nearly all the commercial interests in the city. The organization will hold a meeting today to plan opposition to the increase in the East at once, and to pave the way for similar action when the rates go up all over the country.

It is said that E. H. Harriman declares it is either a case of boosting rates or cutting the salaries of the railroad employes. The railroads figure that the increase, under the present tonnage, will net them \$200,000,000.

Troops Scare Insurgents.

Lima, May 7.—Closely pursued by government troops, the insurgents who rose last week at Chosica and neighboring towns and who are under the leadership of Dr. Durand, are retreating into the interior. It is rumored here that a revolution is in progress in Cuzco, the capital of the department of that name, and that the insurgents hold the city government and have seized the arms and ammunition of the rifle clubs. Cuzco is an inland region east of the Andes, and has a population of 30,000.

Rockefeller to Invade Russia.

London, May 7.—A dispatch to the Central News from St. Petersburg says that three agents of J. D. Rockefeller are there negotiating for the construction of the Amur railway, a bill for which the Douma passed to the first reading last month and which the government is understood to desire to have constructed speedily. Rockefeller's agents offer to complete the railway in five years, to use only Russian material and to employ only Russian labor.

Departure Is Delayed.

Washington, May 7.—A change in the order governing the movement of the Pacific fleet, commanded by Rear-Admiral Dayton, was announced at the Navy Department yesterday, by the operation of which the vessels will remain at San Francisco until May 15, when they will sail for a southern cruise.

MARCH OF MEN OF FLEET.

Largest Armed Force Ever Landed Is Reviewed at San Francisco.

San Francisco, May 8.—Eight thousand bluejackets and marines—the largest armed force the American Navy has ever put ashore in time of peace or war—were landed yesterday from the combined Atlantic and Pacific fleets, now lying in the harbor, and marched through the streets of San Francisco in the most notable parade the city has ever known. For four miles and a half, along streets lined and canopied with colors and in review of a never-ending crowd, the fighting men of the fleets made their way to the martial tunes of their shipmate bands and to cheers that began with the first command to march and ended only when the sailormen had again embarked in the small boats that returned them to their ships. Twenty-five hundred soldiers of the regular army, in full-dress array, graciously acted as an escort to the visiting men of the sea, and were liberally applauded.

The cheers, however, were not all reserved for the sailors and marines. Rear-Admiral Evans, commanding the fleet, and the six other Rear-Admirals in command of squadrons and divisions, rode in carriages. Admiral Evans was quickly recognized by the thousands in the immense reviewing stands, and bowed a constant recognition of the cheering which was caught up by the throngs ahead and echoed by those in the rear as his carriage slowly moved at the front of the marching columns. Secretary of the Navy Metcalf, Governor Gillett, of California, and Mayor Taylor, of San Francisco, rode in the parade and afterward reviewed it as it counter-marched down Van Ness avenue.

ADMITS OTHER CRIMES.

Man Who Blew Up Burlington Train Also in Holdup.

Butte, Mont., May 8.—Lewis Ferriss, who last night confessed to planting 25 sticks of dynamite under Burlington train No. 6, which was wrecked here Friday night, killing three persons, was this morning taken to Hills by detectives to dig up the rest of the powder which was cached after the wreck. Ferriss also admits being concerned in the hold-up of the North Coast Limited two weeks ago.

The engineer was flagged on a steep grade. The train was stopped, and when the engineer saw the hold-up men he ran a blockade of bullets and pulled his train safely into town.

Ferriss made his confession in the hospital, where he was taken after being slightly wounded by the officer who arrested him.

Ferriss was arrested while trying to pawn a rifle of a peculiar old-fashioned caliber, cartridges to fit which were found on the ground after the attempt to rob the North Coast train. Suspicion was directed to him when he was found loafing about the place where the Burlington wreck occurred.

Railroad men here are much aroused and threaten to form a party to lynch Ferriss. He is being kept under a heavy guard.

COAL IS WASTED.

Officers of Federal Survey Discover Valuable Fuel Is Left.

Washington, May 8.—Coal valued at \$200,000,000 is being wasted every year through improper mining methods. It is estimated by officers of the Federal Geological Survey that the loss represents 200,000,000 tons, and that this amount would supply the country for six months. The coal is worth at least \$1 a ton.

J. A. Holmes, one of the officers of the survey, who are trying to solve the fuel problem, says today that nearly half of the total coal supply is left underground, either as pillars to support the roof of the mine, or because it is of an inferior quality.

The investigators find that the waste is also due to the fact that the working out of the lower beds of coal first in some cases breaks and renders impracticable the subsequent mining of the adjacent higher coal beds.

"We are skimming the cream of the natural resources," said Mr. Holmes, "and we are using the best and cheapest of our supplies. Each of the succeeding generations will obtain its needed general supply, but each will pay higher prices, as mining will continually grow more expensive and more dangerous."

Fights to Escape Fine.

Chicago, May 8.—The Standard Oil Company of Indiana today commenced a new fight to escape payment of the fine of \$29,240,000, levied against it by Judge Landis, in the Federal District Court, when its attorneys appeared to argue an appeal from the lower court. John S. Miller argued that the reversal should be granted, because, he said, the oil company did not know that it was using illegal rates, and that each trainload of the company's product should have been taken as the basis of a shipment instead of each car, as charged in the indictment.

Orange Crop Short in South.

Los Angeles, May 8.—With but a few navels left and a brisk demand for all of them, the season for this variety of oranges is approaching a whirlwind close, prices advancing sharply and buyers scrambling for the remainder of the crop. The navel season will end within 10 days—a month ahead of last year. Only 500 cars of navels are left in the state. The shipments to date have been about 2,000 ahead of those at this time a year ago.

More Troubles for Brazil.

Rio de Janeiro, May 8.—Colonel Placido Castro, who headed the revolution of Acre, declares that if Acre is incorporated with the state of Amazonas (instead of being proclaimed a separate state, the inhabitants will proclaim another revolution and fight to make themselves this time an independent nation.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

WILL UNVEIL MONUMENT.

To Mark Site of First School in Polk County.

Dallas.—The first school picnic in Polk County for the year will be held at Rickreall, Saturday, May 16. J. H. Ackerman, superintendent of public instruction, and George H. Himes, of Portland, will be the principal speakers. The afternoon will be given over to sports and games. The committee on arrangements is under the direct supervision of Superintendent H. C. Seymour, of Dallas, county school superintendent. The principal attraction of the day will be the unveiling of a suitable monument to mark the site of the first school opened in Polk County. This historic spot is on the road between Dallas and Rickreall, and about half a mile west of the latter place. The first school was opened in the spring of 1845, with J. E. Lyle, a former Polk County pioneer, now deceased, as teacher. Mrs. Josephine Boyle, one of the first students, will unveil the monument. George H. Himes will deliver an address at the unveiling, dealing with early Oregon history. Rickreall, known in early years as "Dixie," was the home of Colonel J. W. Nesmith, former Indian fighter and politician. The house in which he died still stands about half a mile east of this old and historic town.

PREPARE FOR CHERRY FAIR.

Salem Exposition to Surpass That of Last Year.

Salem.—Extensive preparations are being made for the annual cherry fair to be held in Salem about the first of July, and from information received it is apparent that the fair this year will surpass that of 1907. Cherry growers at The Dalles are planning to come to the Salem fair and capture the best of the prizes in competition with Willamette Valley growers. Last year 30 silver cups and as many diplomas were offered as premiums. This year the number will be considerably increased, an effort being made to offer a premium for every class of fruit ripe at that season of the year. Special attention will be given to cherries in commercial pack. The Salem Board of Trade has taken charge of the preliminary arrangements, and has committees at work.

New School for Cornelius.

Forest Grove.—The school board of Cornelius has decided to build a \$9000 brick schoolhouse in the near future. According to the plans which have been decided upon the edifice will be a two-story structure with basement and will have four recitation rooms. It will be fitted with a modern heating plant and the rooms will be supplied with automatic ventilation. The board has obtained a piece of property near the encampment grounds for the new schoolhouse which, when completed, will be the best in the county in the matter of modern conveniences.

Improvements at Pelican Bay.

Klamath Falls.—Work has already commenced on the improvements at Pelican Bay, owned by E. H. Harriman, on Upper Klamath Lake. A pumping plant has been installed, and hot and cold water will be available in every cottage. A cold storage plant will also be erected. J. S. Holabird, brother of Colonel W. H. Holabird, of Los Angeles, who entertained the Harriman party last summer, is in charge of the improvements. Colonel Holabird, who is now in Mexico, is expected to arrive here the latter part of May to take personal charge of the resort.

Dipping Many Cayuses.

Pendleton.—A carload of crude petroleum has been ordered by Indian Agent McPartridge, to be used in dipping the ponies on the Umatilla reservation, in an effort to eradicate mange. Lumber for the great dipping vat is now on the ground, and the work of rounding up the few thousand many cayuses will soon be started. Many adjoining ranches have afflicted horses, but the government men cannot compel these owners to dip. The state officials could, however, if they would.

Ask for Freight Depot.

Salem.—Citizens of Lyons, on the Corvallis & Eastern Railroad, have presented to the railroad commission a formal complaint, alleging that the Corvallis & Eastern, through lack of enterprise, has neglected to build a freight shed at that station and will not maintain an agent there. Freight is left exposed to the weather, and all articles must be shipped prepaid, which is annoying sometimes. The complaint is signed by several persons. Formal answer must be filed by the railroad company within 10 days.

Frost Nips Prunes.

Portland.—Advice being received daily by Secretary Williams, of the State Horticultural Board, show that the recent frost was productive of considerable damage to the prune crop of the Northwest. This state, it is now estimated, will have only about two-thirds the quantity of prunes produced last year. This, however, will make the crop fall but little less than normal, because last year's production was more than ordinarily large.

Hogs Eat Poisoned Grain.

NORTH POWDER.—G. A. Caspar, a prominent farmer close to North Powder, as usual with farmers in grain-planting season, put out squirrel poison, but got 10 of the fine fattening hogs belonging to one of the town butchers, E. Jarman, the hogs having broken into the Caspar field.

Bright Prospects in John Day.

Prairie City.—The weather in this valley, the John Day Valley, could not be more favorable. It is warm and pleasant, with sufficient rains to make vegetation grow, and prospects for bumper crops of hay and grain could not be excelled. Stock is doing well.

CROPS LOOK WELL.

Conditions Are Excellent Throughout Josephine County.

GRANTS PASS.—The general development and progress of farm work in Josephine County has been far-reaching during the winter months, and the opening of spring has found many acres ready for fruit trees and berries, which will be set out. A splendid rain has been falling, and this will increase the hay crop and late-sown grain, and give assurance of heavy yields. A trip over the county shows that an enormous amount of work has been going on in clearing land and planting out orchards, besides much has been accomplished in other directions toward developing the farming communities.

A never-failing crop for this part of Rogue River Valley is the strawberry, which grows everywhere, and will produce two revenue crops each year, owing to the climatic conditions. This is a feature unknown to Hood River raisers, and perhaps to any other part of the state. It is not an unusual sight to see berries almost all the year around; in fact, they are on the market from May until Christmas.

With the industrial hum and swing felt everywhere, the prospects for the future were never better. The lumber season is opening well, and during the summer there will be about 30 mills in this vicinity sawing the sugar pine of Southern Oregon into material for the factories.

Excited Over Gold Find.

GRANTS PASS.—An investigation party has returned from Williams Creek, the scene of the reported rich strike of gold, and find that between \$5000 and \$7000 have been extracted by Morrison Bros. & Jones in three days, and they are still pounding out rich rock. It was found difficult to get particulars of the full amount extracted, as the operators were inclined to be reticent, fearing a stampede of prospectors to their camp. This new strike is only a short distance from the Jones Bros' marble quarry and about two miles from this city.

Surveying Electric Line.

Pendleton.—It is rumored that Dr. H. W. Coe, of Portland, head of the Columbia Land Company, which owns a half interest in the Furnish ditch, and 20,000 acres of land under it, and which is conducting the colonization plan, now has an engineer in the field to determine upon a route for the proposed electric road from Irrigon to Pendleton. It is also stated on good authority that Dr. Coe will not extend the road any farther in this direction than Echo unless the people of this city will subscribe \$100,000 worth of stock in the venture.

Trout for Eight Mile Creek.

The Dalles.—A shipment of 10,000 trout fry has been received by Victor Marden from the United Fish Commission at Oregon City, and is being placed in Lower Eight Mile Creek. Many of the trout that have been placed in local streams previously have gone into irrigating ditches, and when the water was turned off they died. However, the farmers are being generally notified to put in screens in their ditches to keep the young trout out.

Strawberry Day at Milton.

Milton.—Milton will have another strawberry day this year. The Progressive Club of the city has the matter in charge, and committees have been appointed and preparations will soon be under way for the event, which, it is to be hoped, will excel all past festivities of the kind. This event will take place early in June, and is looked forward to with keen anticipation by all who have attended them in the past.

Plenty of Traffic for New Road.

Klamath Falls.—The Long Lake Lumber Company, of this city, will commence shipment of boxes via the California Northwestern Railway, May 15. It has orders from San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego firms that will consume 2,000,000 feet of lumber. The filling of these orders will constitute the first carload shipments from this city via the California Northwestern Railway.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 87c per bush; red Russian, 84c; bluestem, 89c; valley, 86c. Barley—Feed, \$24 per ton; rolled, \$27 @28; brewing, \$26. Oats—No. 1 white, \$27@27.50 per ton; gray, \$26.50@27. Millstuffs—Bran, \$26 per ton; middlings, \$30.50; shorts, chop, \$28.50; city, \$27; wheat and barley chop, \$27.50. Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$17 per ton; Willamette Valley, ordinary, \$15; Eastern Oregon, \$17.50; mixed, \$16; clover, \$14; alfalfa, \$12; alfalfa meal, \$20. Potatoes—70c per hundred; Willamette Valley, 45c per hundred; East Multnomah, 55c; Clackamas, 55c per hundred; sweet, 5 1/2 per pound. Apples—Select, \$2.50 per box; fancy, \$2; choice, \$1.50; ordinary, \$1.50. Onions—Texas Bermudas, \$2.75 per crate. Vegetables—Turnips, \$1 per sack; carrots, \$1.50@1.75; beets, \$1.25; parsnips, \$1.25; cabbage, \$2 per cwt.; head lettuce, 35c per dozen; celery, 85c@90c per dozen; artichokes, 50c per doz.; asparagus, 7@8c per dozen; beans, 20c per pound; egg plant, 25@30c per pound; parsley, 25c per dozen; peas, 6@7c per pound; peppers, 20c per pound; radishes, 15c per dozen; rhubarb, 1@2c per pound; spinach, 85c per crate. Butter—Extras, 22 1/2c per pound; fancy, 21c; choice, 20c; store, 16c. Eggs—17 1/2c per dozen. Poultry—Mixed chickens, 13c per pound; fryer hens, 14@15c; roosters old, 9c; fryers, dozen, \$4; broilers, dozen, \$4.50@5; dressed poultry, per pound, 1c higher. Dressed Meats—Hogs, fancy, 8c per pound; ordinary, 7@7 1/2c; large, 6c; veal, extra, 8c; ordinary, 7c; heavy, 6c; mutton, fancy, 10c.

POLICE ARREST SUSPECT.

E. H. Martin Accused of Killing Portland Pawnbroker.

Portland, May 6.—Edward Hugh Martin, former artillery officer, expert in coast defense armament, graduate of West Point, company commander in the Cuban campaign, son of wealthy parents—a drug fiend. That is the man arrested by the police early yesterday afternoon for the brutal murder of Nathan Wolf and the pilfering of Wolf's pawnshop on First street last Friday night.

The police were looking for a man of the thug type, low-browed, vicious and a criminal with a record. The nature of the atrocious murder compelled such a picture of the perpetrator. They found a man of high education, good connections—and many weaknesses growing out of the use of cocaine and morphine.

Formidable circumstances point an unwavering finger of accusation at Martin. He denies his guilt. With all the resources of a man of education and of mental resources he evades the verbal traps that are laid for him by the authorities. The story he tells is coherent and connected. But several of the statements whereby he might hope to base his claims to innocence have been refuted. His mental resources are not great enough to overcome the barrier of great evidence. The police say he is guilty. They say they will prove he is guilty. There is, of course, the slender chance that he is not.

FLOOD INUNDATES TOWNS.

Missouri and Illinois Suffer Damage From Elements.

St. Louis, May 6.—A thunder storm of unusual severity, accompanied by a high wind of almost tornado velocity, swept over this vicinity early yesterday, doing much damage to property and indirectly causing loss of life.

A bridge on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, near Belleville, Ill., was washed out and wrecked a freight train. Engineer Ward, Frank Chasam, the fireman, and a trainman, whose name has not been learned, and whose body has not been recovered, were caught under the engine and drowned. The train was piled up in a mass in Schoenlaub Creek, which was swollen into a torrent.

The village of Edgemont, Ill., was flooded, and many persons were forced to take refuge on improvised rafts.

The whole area of lowlands known as the American Bottoms, east of East St. Louis, Ill., and comprising 35 square miles of territory, is under water.

French Village, a town of 1000 inhabitants, one of the oldest settlements in Illinois, was struck by a miniature tornado, and many houses were unroofed. Telephone and telegraph wires are down and there is no communication with French Village.

Traffic is impeded on electric lines running to various points east and north of East St. Louis, Ill., because of high water.

GATHERING TO BE NOTABLE.

Lay Cornerstone of Bureau of American Republics May 11

Washington, May 6.—All indications point to a notable gathering on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the new building of the International Bureau of American Republics on May 11. Sufficient acceptance of the invitations sent out by the governing board have been received to make the event one of the most important of its kind in the history of the capital. They come from the highest officials in Washington, including the President and Vice-President, the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, the supreme court, the Senate and House of Representatives, officers of the Army and heads of various department bureaus and sections, and representative citizens of Washington, as well as some prominent outside officials, including Governors of states, Mayors of cities and heads of principal political and commercial organizations.

A considerable number of the Governors who will be in attendance at the convention called by the President of the United States to conserve the National resources of the country have indicated their intention to come to Washington a day earlier in order to be present.

The principal speeches, which will be made by President Roosevelt, Secretary Root, the Ambassador of Brazil and Andrew Carnegie, will have an international significance. The invocation will be delivered by Cardinal Gibbons, and the benediction will be pronounced by Bishop Cranston, the dean of the Protestant clergy in Washington. The exercises will be opened by the Director of the Bureau, John Barrett, who will present as the presiding officer, the Secretary of State, Elihu Root.

Resume Green Examination.

San Francisco, May 6.—Cross-examination of J. E. Green, promoter of the Parkside Railway Company, who testified on Monday in the trial of Abe Ruef on the charge of bribing supervisors to vote in favor of granting a street railway franchise to the Parkside Company, was resumed today. He told of the then Mayor Schmitz' suggestion during an interview on the subject of the ordinance that the promoters should see the United Railroads officials and of the consultation had by Judge Cope, counsel for the Parkside Company, with Ruef regarding the latter's fee.

Thaw Is Insane.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., May 6.—Dr. Amos T. Baker, acting superintendent of the Matteawan State Hospital, on his return today to the writ of habeas corpus obtained by the counsel for Harry K. Thaw, denied the allegations in the petition of counsel that Thaw is now sane, and alleged, on the contrary, that Thaw is insane. Dr. Baker has had Thaw under observation during his confinement in Matteawan, following the trial for the slaying of Stanford White.

Pleigus Stamped Out.

San Francisco, May 6.—San Francisco's board of supervisors has practically abandoned the rat campaign. In a set of resolutions adopted by the board, the people are informed that the city has not had a suspicious case of bubonic plague since January 30.

HAULS DOWN FLAG

Evans Gives Up His Command of Atlantic Battleship Fleet.

BIG OYATON BY SAN FRANCISCO

Loved Admiral Says Farewell at Banquet Given in His Honor at St. Francis Hotel.

San Francisco, May 9.—Rear-Admiral Evans bade a personal farewell to the officers of his command at the banquet given last night in honor of the visit of the Atlantic fleet by the City of San Francisco. The banquet was given in the white and gold dining room of the St. Francis Hotel, where Admiral Evans and his family have been making their headquarters since the arrival of the fleet on Wednesday. It had been hoped that the commander-in-chief of the fleet, who hauls down his flag today from the truck of the Connecticut, might appear for a few moments, but it was known until well along in the progress of the dinner that he was actually unable to do so. The admiral was wheeled into the crowded dining hall amid spontaneous cheers, in which the officers and their hosts, the citizens of San Francisco, joined with equal enthusiasm. He was in civilian attire, as was also his son, Lieutenant Frank Taylor Evans, who wheeled the admiral's chair.

Rear-Admirals Thomas, Sperry, Gregory, Dayton, Sobbree and Swinburn, captains of all the ships, Governor Gillett, Secretary of the Navy Metcalf, Mayor Taylor, General Funston, of the army, and other notable guests crowded about the chair and shook hands with Admiral Evans, who had a cordial response to each in turn.

LOSES \$1,250,000 BY FIRE

Two Blocks in Atlanta, Georgia, Reduced to Cinders.

Atlanta, May 9.—One million and a quarter dollars is the loss conservatively estimated tonight of a fire which early today destroyed two blocks of Atlanta business property. Tipped the fire under control with ruined buildings in the district bounded by Forsyth, Madison, Madison and Hunter streets. Late today the police and fire departments dynamited what was left of the masonry walls. How the fire started is a mystery. There was no loss of life and no injuries. The insurance on the property destroyed was placed at \$1,250,000. One of the heaviest losers is S. M. B. man, of Atlanta, who owned the whole block bounded by Forsyth, Madison and Nelson streets and Madison avenue.

The Terminal Hotel, one of the largest in the city, is a mass of bricks and had on its register 200 guests when the fire started a block away. Every one escaped.

UNITE FOR DEFENSE.

Shippers Preparing for Titanic Struggle With Railroads.

Chicago, May 9.—Commercial manufacturing interests of cities from the Mississippi River to Maine, are preparing for a titanic struggle with the Eastern railroads. The question of a general advance in freight rates is the issue. The gauntlet is thrown down by the railroads in the shape of a definite announcement on July 1 and August 1 a general advance of freight rates approximately 10 per cent will be made east of the Mississippi River. The great shippers and manufacturers have lost no time in accepting the challenge. The first movement in arraying commercial and manufacturing interests of the affected territory is a phalanx against the Eastern railroads systems was made yesterday by the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, which quickly was followed by the Commercial Association of America. The former issued a call for a great conference to be held in Chicago next Friday of all commercial and industrial organizations of the eastern section of the country. The meeting will map out a general line of battle.

Firemen Confess Arson.

Norfolk, Va., May 9.—Four members of the Jamestown Exposition fire department, and two of the Portsmouth Guard were today held to the grand jury on the charge of arson. They are the men filed the fire on the grounds which destroyed the Phillips pavilion and other villages, ten days ago. It was understood that Fire Chief Miller had recommended, and they had forces and salaries, and they had a fire would demonstrate the value of both the firemen and guards of the grounds.

Repair Dredge Chinook.

Washington, May 9.—Senator Patterson today proposed an amendment to a sundry bill bill appropriating \$100,000 for repairing the dredge Chinook. Senator had a conference with the chief engineers, who are anxious that Chinook be again placed in commission and set to work on the Columbia bar. It is doubted if \$100,000 is sufficient for repairs, but an estimate will be in a short time, and if a smaller amount is required the amount will be raised.

Will Make Lobbyists Regulate.

Guthrie, Okla., May 9.—Both houses of the Oklahoma legislature have agreed to the anti-lobbying bill which provides that criminal actions shall be had on any lobbyist who does not file his name and a statement of his business with the legislature. The measure is similar to a measure proposed by Governor Polk, of Missouri. Governor Haskell has said he will sign the bill.